

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Original) A method of managing quality of service in a mobile radio network in which protocols for communication over terrestrial interfaces comprise a radio network layer and a transport network layer and wherein quality of service management includes quality of service management linked to the radio network layer and quality of service management linked to the transport network layer, said method comprising:

a step in which a first network element signals to a second network element by means of the radio network layer signaling protocol at least one parameter representative of transport quality of service or of quality of service for the transport network layer, and

a step in which the second network element uses said at least one parameter for transport quality of service management.

2. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein said first network element is a controlling radio network controller.

3. (Original) A method according to claim 2, wherein said second network element is a Node B or a base station.

4. (Currently Amended) A method according to either claim 2 or ~~claim 3~~, wherein said radio network layer signaling protocol is a Node B Application Part protocol applicable to the Iub interface between the controlling radio network controller and the Node B.

5. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any one of claims 2 to 4~~ claim 2, wherein said second network element uses said at least one parameter for transport quality of service management for uplink transmission over the Iub interface between the controlling radio network controller and the Node B.

6. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein said first network element is a serving radio network controller.

7. (Original) A method according to claim 6, wherein said second network element is a drift radio network controller.

8. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~either claim 6 or claim 7~~ claim 6, wherein said radio network layer signaling protocol is a Radio Network Subsystem Application Part signaling protocol applicable to the Iur interface between the serving radio network controller and the drift radio network controller.

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9. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any one of claims 6 to 8~~claim 6, wherein said second network element uses said at least one transport quality of service management parameter for uplink transmission over the Iur interface between the serving radio network controller and the drift radio network controller and/or downlink transmission over the Iub interface between the drift radio network controller and the Node B.

10. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 9~~claim 1, wherein said at least one parameter representative of transport quality of service is a specific parameter intended to indicate a transport quality of service level.

11. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 9~~claim 1, wherein said at least one parameter representative of transport quality of service is at least one radio access bearer parameter that may also be used as a transport quality of service parameter.

12. (Original) A method according to claim 11, wherein said at least one radio access bearer parameter that may also be used as a transport quality of service parameter is the transfer delay.

13. (Original) A method according to claim 11, wherein said at least one radio access bearer parameter that may also be used as a transport quality of service parameter is the traffic handling priority.

14. (Original) A method according to claim 11, wherein said at least one radio access bearer parameter that may also be used as a transport quality of service parameter is the traffic class.
15. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any one of claims 11 to 14~~claim 11, wherein said at least one radio access bearer parameter that may also be used as a transport quality of service parameter is copied or translated from the RANAP protocol to the NBAP protocol, respectively from the RANAP protocol to the RNSAP protocol.
16. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 9~~claim 1, wherein said at least one parameter representative of transport quality of service is at least one parameter that may be associated with a transport quality of service level or at least one radio access bearer parameter that may also be used as a transport quality of service parameter.
17. (Original) A method according to claim 16, wherein said at least one parameter that may be associated with a transport quality of service level or at least one radio access bearer parameter that may also be used as a transport quality of service parameter is a time adjustment parameter, the lowest values of said parameter being assigned to connections having the highest transfer delay and/or traffic handling priority constraints and the highest values of said parameter

being assigned to connections having the highest transfer delay and/or traffic handling priority constraints.

18. (Original) A method according to claim 17, wherein said time adjustment parameter is the time of arrival window start parameter.

19. (Original) A method according to claim 16, wherein said at least one parameter that may be associated with a level of transport quality of service or at least one radio access bearer parameter that may also be used as a transport quality of service parameter includes at least one parameter representative of the number of dedicated channels allocated to a connection, a high number of dedicated channels being allocated to connections having high transfer delay and/or traffic handling priority constraints and a lower number of dedicated channels being allocated to connections having lower transfer delay and/or traffic handling priority constraints.

20. (Currently Amended) A network element comprising means for implementing a method according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 19~~claim 1.

21. (Original) A network element according to claim 20, in the form of a controlling radio network controller.

22. (Original) A network element according to claim 20, in the form of a serving radio network controller.

23. (Original) A network element according to claim 20, in the form of a drift radio network controller.

24. (Original) A network element according to claim 20, in the form of a Node B.